

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Rep. Pete Stark, Ranking Member on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, made the following statement on the Senate Finance Committee's plan for Medicare:

“Proponents of Medicare privatization often justify their ideology by saying that they simply want to give beneficiaries what Members of Congress and other federal employees get. But, the truth is that they have no intention of offering a Medicare benefit that even comes close to the taxpayer-subsidized benefits that we receive.

“According to a new CRS analysis, the drug benefit in the Blue Cross option of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) is worth \$2,700 when applied to the Medicare population, while the Senate Finance deal is worth only \$1,700. Somehow it doesn't sound quite as good to tell your constituents that they get a benefit about half as good as yours.”